

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07155 021122Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /088 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, ENGR, CG, US

SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 179994

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT MOBUT'S SENIOR ADVISOR, BISENGEMANA, AND TOLD HIM OF UNDER SECRETARY ROBENSON'S MEETING WIT THE ZAIRIAN CHARGE. SINCE BISENGEMANA HIMSELF RAN ZAIRE'S PARTICIPATION AT THE APRIL PREPCON THROUGH HIS CONFIDANT AND EX-AIDE, ZOLA, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS I THOUGHT IT BEST TO MAKE THE PITCH AGAIN IN THE EVENT THE MINISTRY'S REPORT HAD NOT REACHED HIM, OR HAD BEEN GARBLED. INDEED, BISENGEMANA HAD NOT YET SEEN NDAGANO'S REPORT.

2. AFTER I OUTLINED THE HIGH POINTS, SAYING THAT IN MY OPINION OUR PLAN WAS IN LINE WITH THE ZAIRIAN POSITION PUT FORTH IN APRIL, I HANDED OVER AN AIDE-MEMOIRE BASED ON THE REFTTEL, WHICH BISENGEMANA READ CAREFULLY. HIS FIRST REACTION WAS TO SAY THAT IT WAS EXCELLENT, BUT THAT "THE PROCESS SHOULD NOT TAKE TWELVE MONTHS."

3. BISENGEMANA CONTINUED, SAYING THAT IN HIS OPINION MAJOR
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 07155 021122Z

OPTIONS SHOULD BE AGREED UPON FIRST AT THE "POLICY LEVEL",

THEN THE TECHNICIANS WOULD HAVE GUIDELINES AND WOULD PRODUCE RESULTS QUICKLY. THE FAILURE OF THE PREPCON IN APRIL, HE THOUGHT, WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE THE LDC DELEGATION WENT WITH A WAIT-AND-SEE-HOW-IT-GOES ATTITUDE. IF THERE HAD BEEN CLOSE PRIOR CONSULTATION AT POLICY LEVEL, ZAIRE, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD HAVE PLAYED A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. I DID NOT INTERRUPT HIM TO POINT OUT THAT WE HAD TRIED TO ESTABLISH SUCH COMMUNICATION BUT THAT THERE WAS NO ONE OF IMPORTANCE, ON THE ZAIRIAN END OF THE PHONE.

4. BIESENGEMANA WENT ON. ZAIRE CAN BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THE U.S. IN THE THIRD WORLD IN GENERAL AND IN THE PRODUCER/ CONSUMER CONTEXT IN PARTICULAR. BUT TO DO SO, IT MUST HAVE IN HAND SOME ASSURANCE OF REASONABLY QUICK PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. TWELVE MONTHS AIN'T REASONABLY QUICK. HE BOLSTERED HIS POINT OF ZAIRIAN LEADERSHIP BY REFERRING TO MOBUTU'S POSITION AGAINST EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN AT THE RECENT OAU SUMMIT. "AFRICA FOLLOWS MOBUTU'S LEAD", HE SAID.

5. SINCE BIESENGEMANA HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM THE BEGINNING THAT, AFTER HE HAD TALKED WITH MOBUTU, THE GOZ WOULD ENDORSE OUR PLAN SO THAT THE FRENCH COULD PROCEED TO ISSUE INVITATIONS, I MUST CONFESS DID NOT TRY TO GET INTO A DEBATE WITH HIM ON THE ISSUES HE HAD RAISED. BESIDES, I THINK HE'S BASICALLY RIGHT, AND I BELIEVE ZAIRE COULD PLAY A MODERATING ROLE, IF PROPERLY HANDLED.

6 I WILL FOLLOW UP WITH BIESENGEMANA WITH THE AIM OF GETTING A FORMAL ENDORSEMENT, EITHER THROUGH MY CHANNELS, OR THROUGH THE ZAIRIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON. I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BIESENGEMA'S OFFER TO CONSULT CLOSELY AT THE "POLICY LEVEL", BY EXTENDING A FORMAL INVITATION TO BIESENGEMANA HIMSELF, OR HIS DESIGNEE TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH PRODUCER/ CONSUMER AFFAIRS. I BELIEVE THE INVITATION WOULD BE ACCEPTED NOW AND THAT ZOLA WOULD PROBABLY BE DESIGNATED--ALTHOUGH BIESENGEMANA MIGHT COME, IF MOBUTU CAN SPARE HIM.

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PAGE 03 KINSHA 07155 021122Z

7. IF THE DEPT AGREES AND THE INVITATION IS ACCEPTED, I NEED NOT POINT OUT THAT THE OCCASION WOULD INVITE DISCUSSION OF COPPER, CIPEC--AND INDEED OTHER ISSUES IF BIESENGEMANA HIMSELF CAME.
WALKER

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